

After Final Office Action of November 28, 2007

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy telephonic communication conducted on May 5, 2008. In this communication the Examiner indicated that claims 11-24 would be rejoined upon amendment that deletes the recitation “or a fragment, variant, or derivative thereof.” The Examiner also requested alignments of SEQ ID NOS: 2-16 and SEQ ID NO: 43.

Claims 11-24 are rejoined and currently amended to delete the recitation “or a fragment, variant, or derivative thereof.” However, applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the original claims reciting “or a fragment, variant, or derivative thereof” in a future continuation application. Claims 46-75 are rejoined and identified as previously presented.

Per the Examiner’s request, Applicants provide alignments of each of SEQ ID NOS: 2-16 and SEQ ID NO: 43. SEQ ID NOS: 2, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16 are aligned with SEQ ID NO: 43. SEQ ID NOS: 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15 are aligned with the reverse complementary strand of SEQ ID NO: 43.

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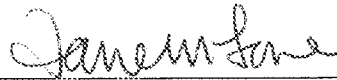
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner permit this case to proceed to allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0219, under Order No. 0019240.00447US2 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5/16/08



Jane M. Love, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 42,812

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP
399 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022
(212) 230-8800 (telephone)
(212) 230-8888 (facsimile)